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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /133 W
---------- 089969
R 301823Z MAY 74
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 658
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 064

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT U.K. (N.I.)
SUBJECT: NI ASSEMBLY PROROGUED; REES CONSULTS PARTIES TO
FORM NEW EXECUTIVE

1. NI SECSTATE MAY 29 WITHDREW WARRANTS OF OFFICE OF REMAINING SDLP AND ALLIANCE MEMBERS OF NI EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATION. WE UNDERSTAND JUNIOR MINISTERS IN NI OFFICE WILL ACT AS EXECUTIVE.

2. QUEEN BY ORDER IN COUNCIL MAY 29 PROROGUED NI ASSEMBLY. CONSTITUTION ACT IS SILENT ON HOW LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY SHALL BE EXERCISED IN NI WHEN ASSEMBLY IS PROROGUED, BUT PRESUMABLY THIS AUTHORITY WILL REVERT TO WESTMINSTER.

3. NI SECSTATE MAY 30 IS CONSULTING WITH LEADERS OF SIX POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN ASSEMBLY, AS REQUIRED BY CONSTITUTION ACT, WITH VIEW TO ESTABLISHING NEW POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE WITH BROAD SUPPORT IN COMMUNITY. THREE FORMER EXECUTIVE PARTIES FAVOR CREATION OF SUCH A NEW EXECUTIVE, BUT THREE LOYALIST PARTY LEADERS HAVE ALREADY SAID THEY WOULD NOT SHARE POWER WITH REPUBLICANS OR UNDER PRESENT NI CONSTITUTION ACT, UNDER WHICH, THE CHARGE, EXECUTIVE IS
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"SELECTED" BY NI SECSTATE RATHER THAN CHOSEN BY ASSEMBLY

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ACCORDING TO BRITISH DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE. THEY STILL WANT
NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

4. HMG'S ACTIONS ARE ONLY ONES POSSIBLE WITHIN PRESENT
CONSTITUTION ACT WITHOUT WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL,
AND THEY AMOUNT TO DE FACTO DIRECT RULE. PERIOD OF PROROGATION
CAN BE AS MUCH AS FOUR MONTHS; EXTENSION WOULD ALSO REQUIRE
WESTMINSTER OK. ALTHOUGH LOYALIST ATTITUDES MAKE IT OBVIOUS
THAT NO POWER-SHARING, WIDELY-ACCEPTABLE EXECUTIVE CAN NOW
BE APPOINTED, PRESUMABLY SECSTATE'S CONSULTATIONS WILL MAKE
IT CLEAR WHO IS STANDING IN WAY, AND ALLOW HIM AND HIS JUNIOR
MINISTERS TO RUN NI TEMPORARILY, WHILE HOPING POLITICAL
SITUATION WILL CALM DOWN AND FUTURE WILL BECOME CLEARER.

5. MEANWHILE NI IS RAPIDLY RETURNING TO WORK. BRITISH TROOPS
ARE WITHDRAWING FROM FILLING STATIONS AND OIL STORAGE
AREAS THEY HAD OCCUPIED. DEPT OF COMMERCE ESTIMATES PROVINCE
LOST L2M PER DAY IN PRODUCTION AS WELL AS UNCOUNTABLE FUTURE
OVERSEAS INVESTMENT, BUT OPTIMISTS THINK PRODUCTION CAN BE
MADE UP, AND MARKETS AND INVESTORS HELD.
PEMBERTHY

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